

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25–395

**North East and North Cumbria ICB**  
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By Email

12 January 2026

Dear Applicant

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)**

Thank you for your request received on 24 December 2025 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (the ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley.

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

**Your Request**

Please could I ask for the following information related to Personal Health Budgets that you are responsible for under NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

1. Please could you send me your Personal Health Budgets Policy?
2. If you don't have one, please could you send me information on what you use for PHB governance and implementation with parents.

**Our Response**

1. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested. However, it is exempt from disclosure under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) because it is intended for future publication. It is considered that it is reasonable to withhold the requested information prior to publication because the policy will be finalised and approved for publication, then be made available by 30 April 2026.

To use this exemption, we are required to undertake a public interest test. The matters which were considered in applying the public interest test are as follows:

Factors in favour of disclosure:

- Disclosure would be consistent with the ICB's commitment to transparency.
- There has been a decision to publish the information.

Factors in favour of withholding:

- The policy will go through several committees for review and approval and may be subject to change.
- The policy and its contents are not yet finalised and it is not in the public interest to provide an interim version which could provide inaccurate information. Such disclosure would not promote credibility or trust.
- The information is due to be made public given its value and interest to a wide audience. It is not in the public interest to disclose such information to a small number of individuals in advance of wider publication.
- Early release of the information in response to a freedom of information request could put unnecessary pressure on the ICB to publish earlier than planned, potentially resulting in reduced quality of the final policy. This is clearly not in the public interest as it negatively impacts on the ICB's ability to publish information in a co-ordinated and considered fashion. The ICB want the public to have confidence in the information it publishes.

We believe that following the established date of publication is sensible, in line with accepted practices, and fair to all concerned. It is acceptable to manage the availability of this information by planning and controlling its publication, as the timetable for publication enables internal consideration of the information prior to its public release.

Therefore, on this occasion, we consider the public interest in withholding the requested information outweighs the public interest in providing the requested data at this time.

2. Please refer to the response to question 1.

In accordance with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to the Information Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the ICB's complaints procedure.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk). This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours faithfully

*Information Governance Support Officer*

**Information Governance Support Officer  
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board**